

# 2015

## Annual Report



City of Sheboygan  
Fire Department



Dear Citizens,

On behalf of the Sheboygan Fire Department, I want to thank you for taking the time to review our 2015 Annual Report. All of our members and staff work hard to provide the best possible service to our community.

2015 was another successful year for our department. The department's net cost to taxpayers went down for a third straight year in a row, we responded to a record 5,034 runs and there were no fire deaths or serious fire injuries.

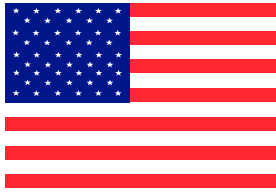
2016 goals include the successful implementation of new ambulances, breathing apparatus, EMS billing, payroll and scheduling software, electronic inspections, the creation of a new public safety career path at Sheboygan South High School and the implementation of a new county-wide radio system.

I would like to thank our citizens and city leaders for the support they give us and the trust they place in us to take care of any emergency situation that may arise. And finally, thank you to the firefighters, paramedics, officers, chiefs and support personnel that make up this department. It is their dedication to service and this department that make us the best that we can be.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael T. Romas".

Mike Romas  
Fire Chief  
City of Sheboygan



## Department Mission

The Sheboygan Fire Department is dedicated to serving all who live, visit, work and invest in the City of Sheboygan through excellence in fire protection, rescue, emergency and non-emergency medical services, code enforcement, and education, and at the highest professional level in a compassionate, ethical, and cost effective manner.

## Department Vision

The Sheboygan Fire Department will continue to provide response times consistently within the guidelines of NFPA 1710, with up-to-date emergency vehicles/equipment and an adequate number of highly trained personnel, focused on saving lives and preventing property damage. A movement towards a regional based fire protection/shared services system would stabilize the cost of fire/EMS protection for the citizens of Sheboygan, drastically improve response times and fire/EMS protection in the neighboring communities, and increase the availability of timely resources for the entire area. This cooperative effort would bring together local governments, citizens, firefighters and EMS personnel working together towards a common goal of saving lives, property, and community assets, while protecting the investments and employment base of private enterprise.



# Sheboygan Fire Department Annual Report | 2015

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## Sheboygan Fire Department Management and Administrative Staff



**FIRE CHIEF – MICHAEL T. ROMAS**  
CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT



**ASSISTANT CHIEF – VERNON KOCH**  
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT



**DEPUTY CHIEF – CHARLES BUTLER**  
EMS/HEALTH AND SAFETY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



**BATTALION CHIEF - KEITH RISSE**  
A SHIFT  
TRAINING



**BATTALION CHIEF – DEAN KLEIN**  
B SHIFT  
SUPPORT SERVICES



**BATTALION CHIEF - GARY KOLBERG**  
C SHIFT  
CODE ENFORCEMENT



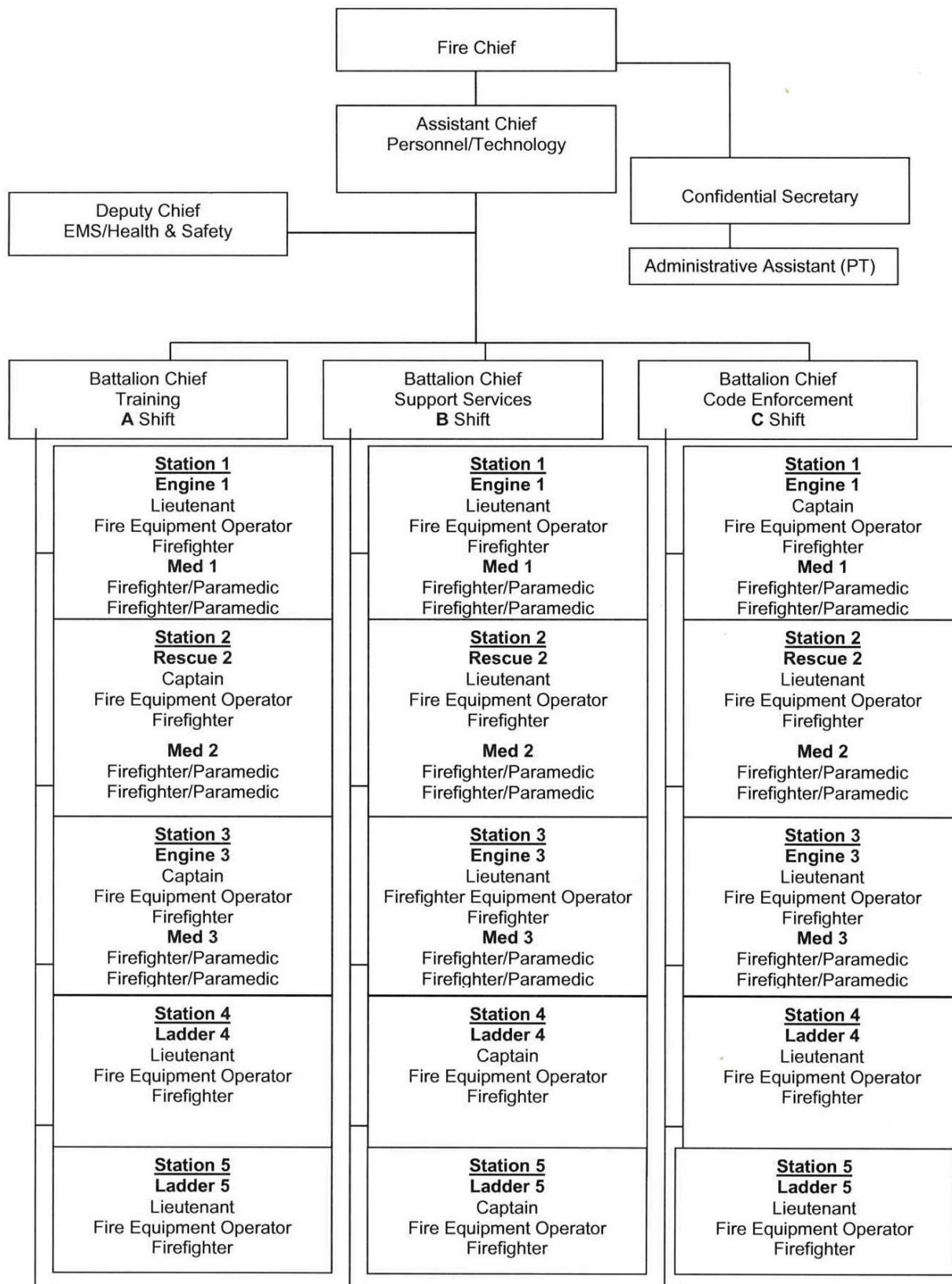
**CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY**  
LISA HORN



**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
JENNIFER ALBRIGHT



# Sheboygan Fire Department Annual Report | 2015



# Sheboygan Fire Department Annual Report | 2015

## Sheboygan Fire Department Stations

	<b>Fire Station #1</b> 833 New York Avenue Engine 1 Med 1
<b>Fire Station #2</b> 2413 South 18 Street Rescue 2 Med 2	
	<b>Fire Station #3</b> 1326 North 25 Street – Department Headquarters Engine 3 Med 3 Battalion Chief Car Med 6 (Reserve Ambulance)
<b>Fire Station #4</b> 2622 North 15 Street Ladder 4 Engine 6 (Reserve Engine)	
	<b>Fire Station #5</b> 4504 South 18 Street Ladder 5 Engine 7 (Reserve Engine)

## Services Provided by the Sheboygan Fire Department

Fire Suppression and Rescue  
Rope Rescue  
Excavation Rescue  
Confined Space Rescue  
Water/Ice Rescue  
Automobile and Industrial Extrication  
Emergency Management  
Advanced Life Support Response  
Fire Safety Building Inspections

Code Enforcement  
Building Plan Review  
Fire Safety Training for Businesses  
Medical Transports  
Public Service/Assistance  
Hazardous Materials Response  
School Fire Safety Education  
Special Event Standby  
Fall Prevention Referrals

## Equipment, Facilities, and Vehicles Status Update

### Equipment

- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Respirators were all tested and certified. All department SCBAs are nearing the end of their service life and are to be replaced in 2016.
- Breathing-air compressor was serviced and air quality was tested.
- All Hurst extrication equipment was tested and serviced.
- Purchased seven new sets of structural firefighting protective clothing.

### Facilities

- Station #4 Roof replacement project was completed.
- Station #1 and #2 Building assessment was completed on both buildings
- Station #2 had to have temporary structural work performed based on findings of assessment.
- Station #3 Concrete under east overhead doors was replaced.

### Vehicles

- All fire apparatus equipped with a pump had annual pump testing and recertification.
- 2015 Pierce Impel PUC Pumper was purchased and placed into service.
- 2015 Chevrolet Equinox was leased as Chief's vehicle.
- Fleet maintenance through the Department of Public Works continues for both routine maintenance and repairs.
- Purchased a used 2008 ambulance with no mileage on it.



REPLACEMENT MED 6 PLACED INTO SERVICE IN 2015

# Sheboygan Fire Department Annual Report | 2015

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
111 - Building fire	77	1.53%
112 - Fires in structure other than in a building	1	0.02%
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	24	0.48%
114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	1	0.02%
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1	0.02%
121 - Fire in mobile home used as fixed residence	3	0.06%
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	9	0.18%
138 - Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	1	0.02%
140 - Natural vegetation fire, other	3	0.06%
141 - Forest, woods or wildland fire	1	0.02%
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	6	0.12%
143 - Grass fire	2	0.04%
151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	2	0.04%
154 - Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	3	0.06%
160 - Special outside fire, other	4	0.08%
162 - Outside equipment fire	3	0.06%
251 - Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	2	0.04%
300 - Rescue, EMS incident, other	33	0.66%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	180	3.58%
320 - Emergency medical service, other	6	0.12%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	3496	69.45%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	120	2.38%
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	11	0.22%
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	23	0.46%
331 - Lock-in (if lock out , use 511 )	7	0.14%
341 - Search for person on land	4	0.08%
351 - Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure	1	0.02%
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	4	0.08%
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	3	0.06%
356 - High-angle rescue	1	0.02%
357 - Extrication of victim(s) from machinery	1	0.02%
361 - Swimming/recreational water areas rescue	1	0.02%
381 - Rescue or EMS standby	11	0.22%
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	17	0.34%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	29	0.58%
413 - Oil or other combustible liquid spill	12	0.24%
421 - Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	3	0.06%
422 - Chemical spill or leak	44	0.87%
423 - Refrigeration leak	1	0.02%
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	13	0.26%
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	2	0.04%
441 - Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	3	0.06%
442 - Overheated motor	4	0.08%
443 - Breakdown of light ballast	3	0.06%
444 - Power line down	8	0.16%
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	11	0.22%

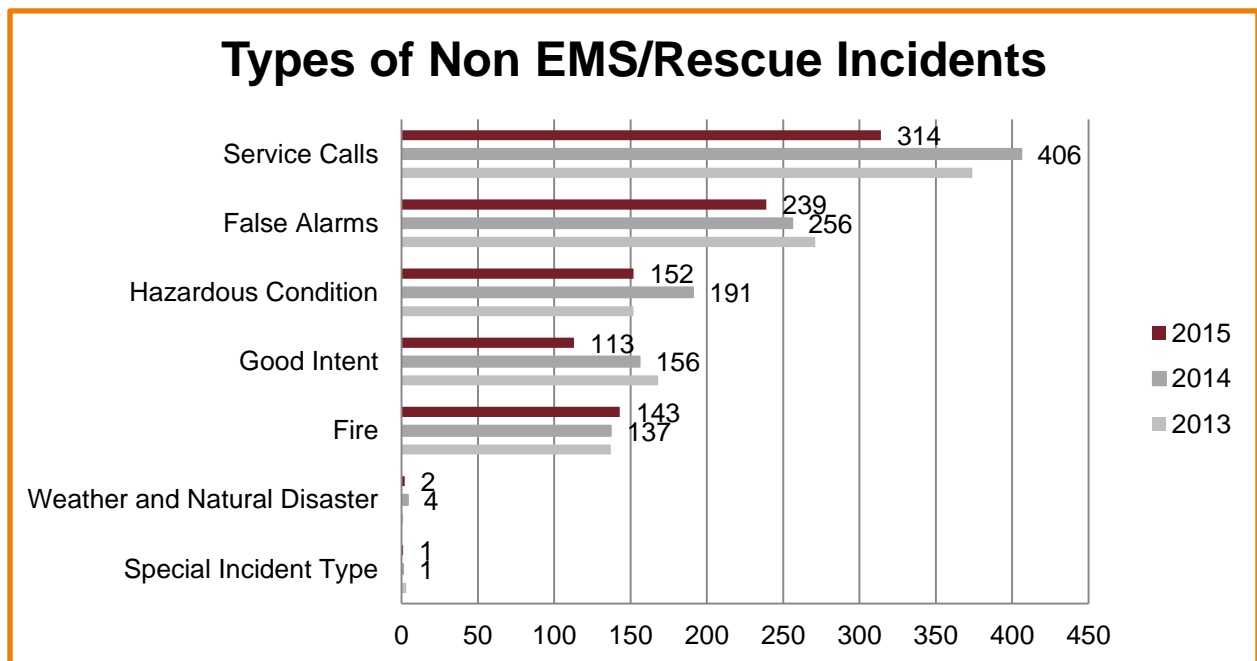
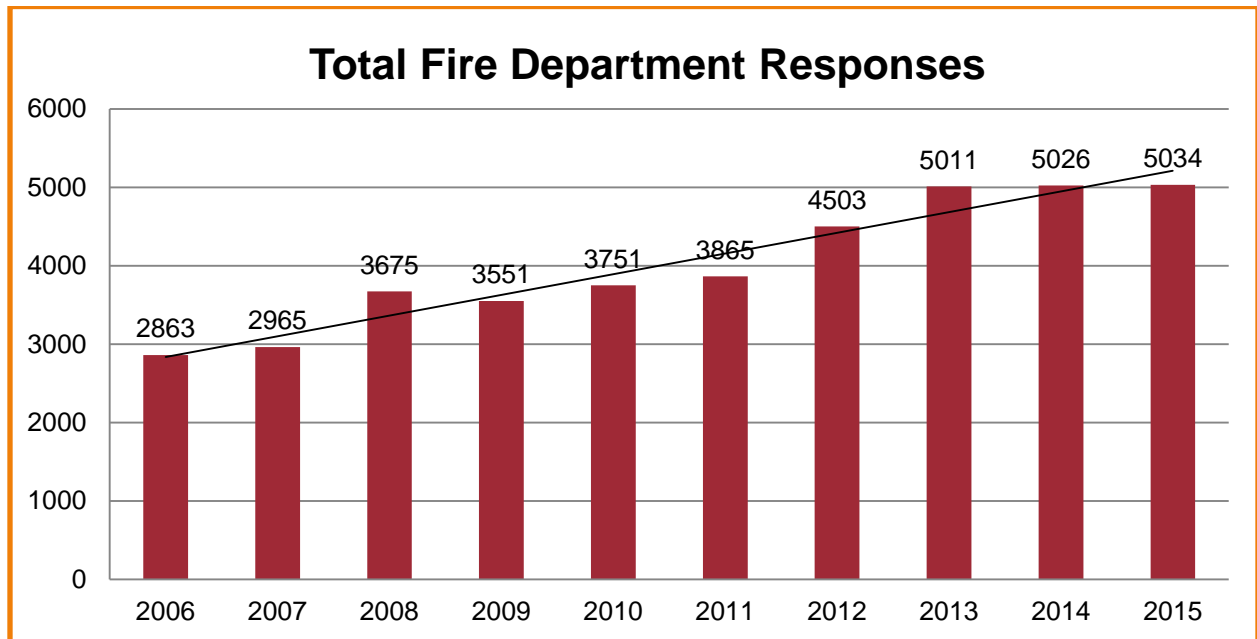


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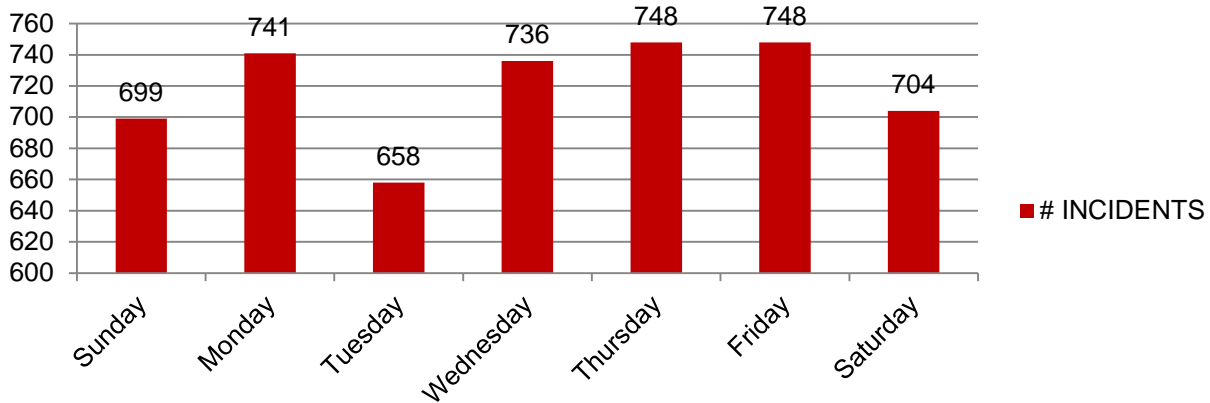
451 - Biological hazard, confirmed or suspected	1	0.02%
461 - Building or structure weakened or collapsed	1	0.02%
463 - Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1	0.02%
500 - Service Call, other	2	0.04%
511 - Lock-out	19	0.38%
512 - Ring or jewelry removal	1	0.02%
520 - Water problem, other	4	0.08%
521 - Water evacuation	4	0.08%
522 - Water or steam leak	11	0.22%
531 - Smoke or odor removal	1	0.02%
541 - Animal problem	1	0.02%
542 - Animal rescue	6	0.12%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	16	0.32%
552 - Police matter	2	0.04%
553 - Public service	53	1.05%
554 - Assist invalid	202	4.01%
555 - Defective elevator, no occupants	4	0.08%
561 - Unauthorized burning	69	1.37%
600 - Good intent call, other	43	0.85%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	42	0.83%
621 - Wrong location	4	0.08%
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	9	0.18%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	25	0.50%
641 - Vicinity alarm (incident in other location)	1	0.02%
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	21	0.42%
652 - Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	5	0.10%
653 - Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	2	0.04%
661 - EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency	8	0.16%
671 - HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	33	0.66%
712 - Direct tie to FD, malicious false alarm	1	0.02%
713 - Telephone, malicious false alarm	4	0.08%
714 - Central station, malicious false alarm	4	0.08%
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	5	0.10%
731 - Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	17	0.34%
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	43	0.85%
734 - Heat detector activation due to malfunction	3	0.06%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	44	0.87%
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	25	0.50%
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1	0.02%
741 - Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	14	0.28%
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	39	0.77%
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	6	0.12%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	34	0.68%
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	7	0.14%
900 - Special type of incident, other	1	0.02%
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>5034</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Response Statistics

### Total Number of Responses

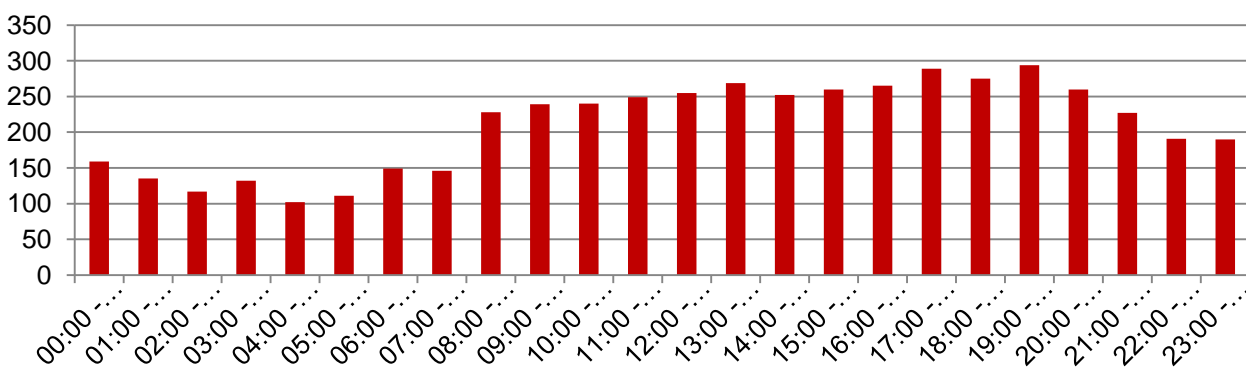


## 2015 Calls by Day of Week



The *Calls by Day of Week* and *Calls by Time of Day* graphs are indicators of when requests for the Fire Department occur in Sheboygan. While there are some patterns that are seen, these graphs match trends nationally overall and also indicate that requests happen at all times.

## 2015 Calls by Time of Day

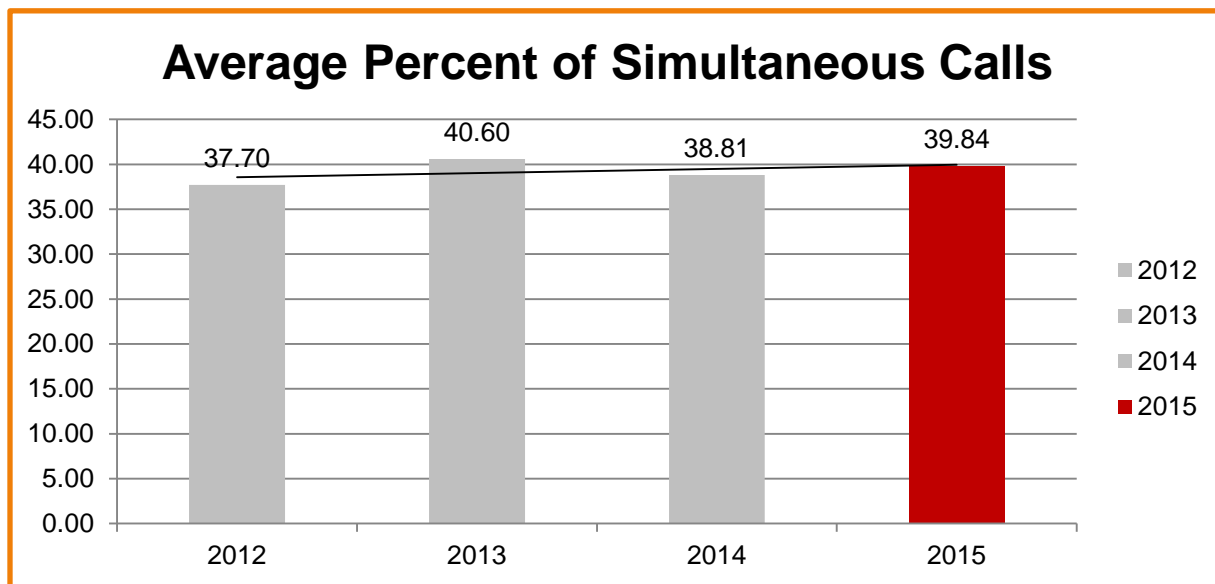


## Mutual Aid Given/Received

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Incidents with Mutual Aid Received	5	7	5	5
Incidents with Mutual Aid Given	8	9	8	8
Other Responses Outside of City	5	20	26	19

## Concurrent Calls

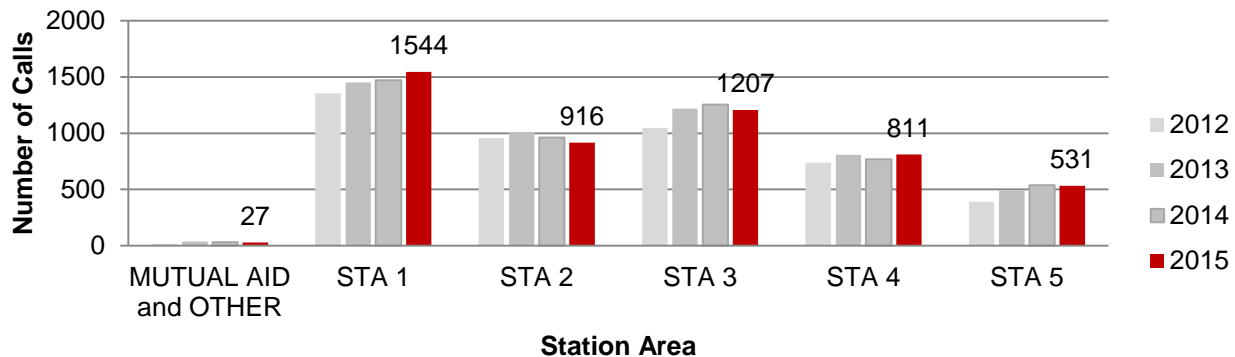
The measure of simultaneous calls represents the percentage of total call requests for the fire department while another call or multiple calls are already in progress. Generally speaking the call requests are random and in 2015 there was a slight increase in concurrent calls from the previous year, but that increase was insignificant and represented a relatively flat trend over previous years measured.



## Fire Deaths

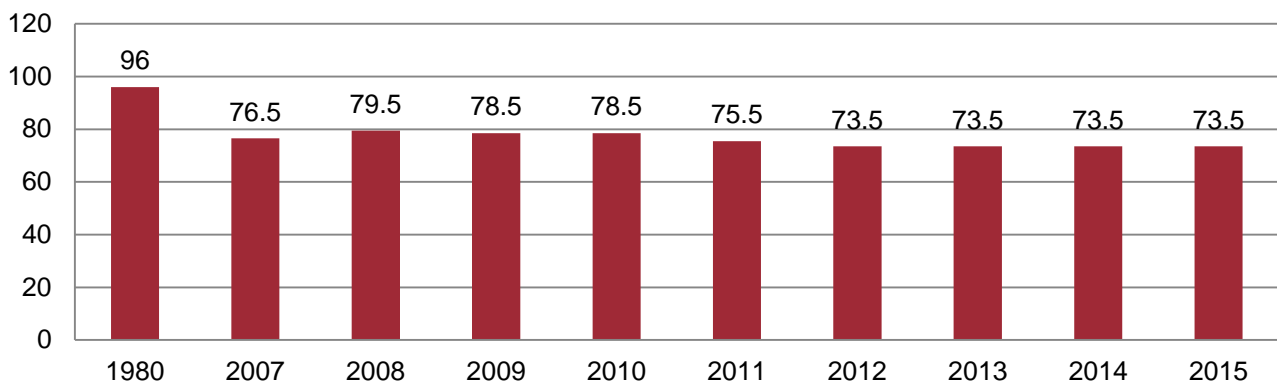
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Fire Deaths	0	1	1	0

## Number of Responses by Station Area



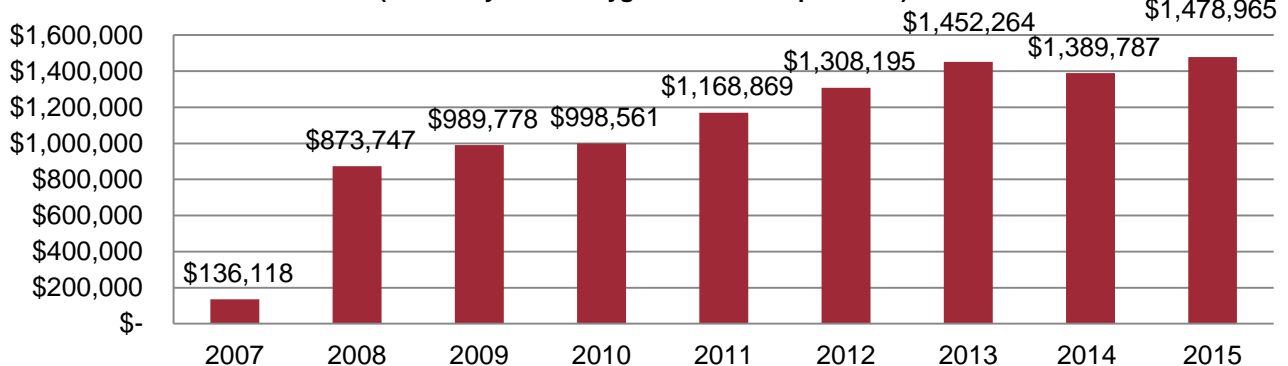
The *Response Requests by Station Area* graph is the total number of incidents as divided by Fire Station Single Alarm response area as designated by the fire department. These response areas are established to maintain appropriate response times as set forth by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

## Fire Department FTEs



## Fire Department Revenues

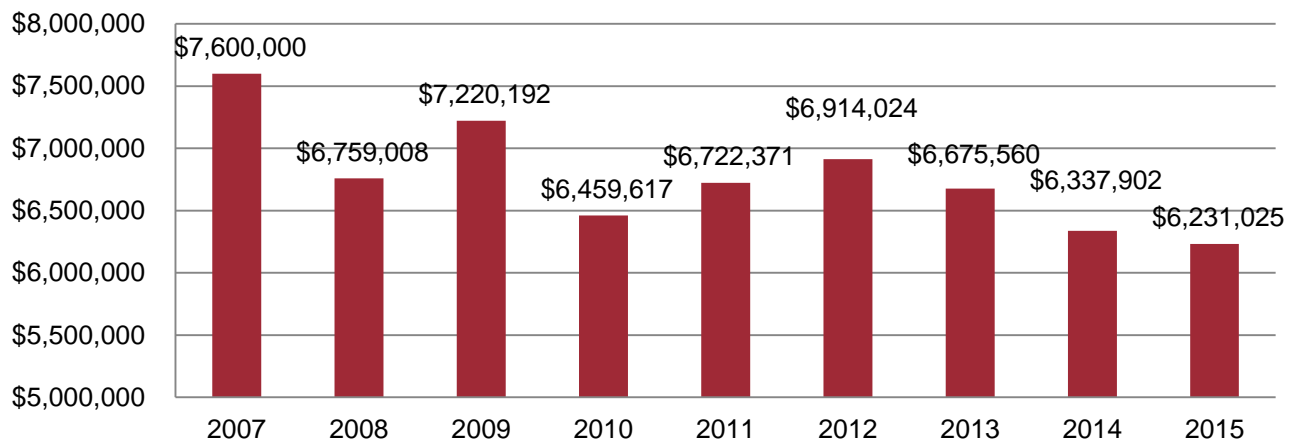
(From City of Sheboygan Finance Department)





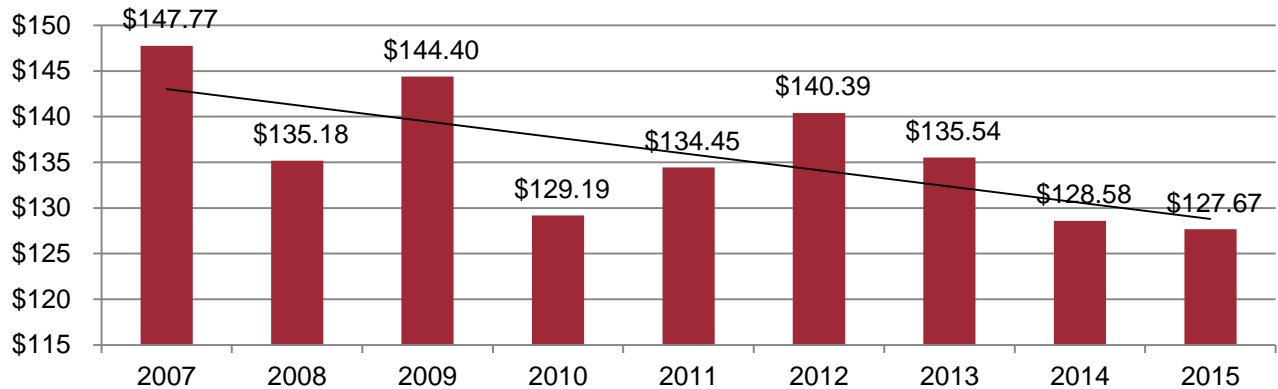
## Fire and EMS Department Net Cost

(Based on 2015 Revenues and Operating Budget Expenses)



## Fire and EMS Department Cost Per Capita

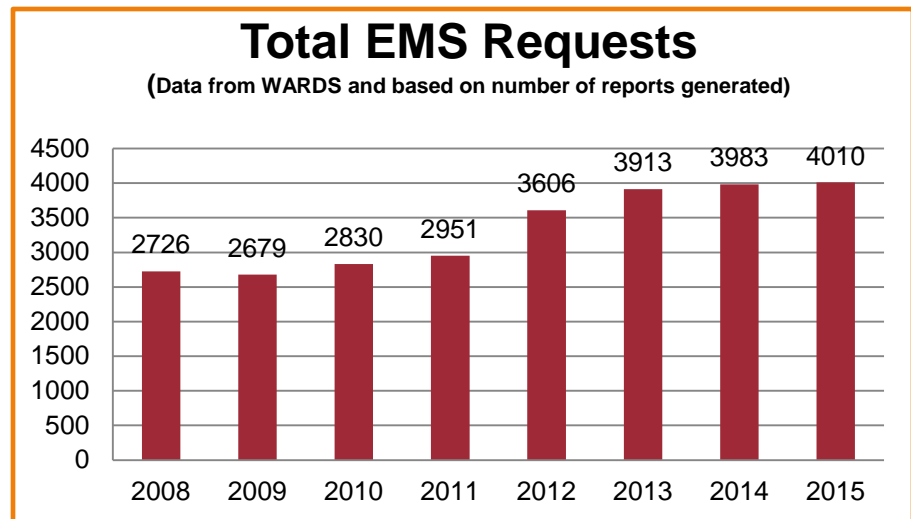
(Based on 2016 Estimated Population of 48,806)



## Emergency Medical Services

The Sheboygan Fire Department has provided emergency medical care for the citizens of Sheboygan for many years and as of January 1, 2008 has been a licensed ambulance service provider with the State of Wisconsin. The personnel of the fire department are cross-trained in both fire services and emergency medical care. This duality of skills and equipment

provides a very efficient model for providing both EMS and fire services to the community at a very high level. Response time requirements based on progression timelines for both critical medical events and fires are very similar which makes the medical response pair well with the existing fire department infrastructure. When responding to fire and technical rescue related responses, the cross-trained firefighter can apply the necessary skills to the problem at hand whether it is fire or an injured person, or both.



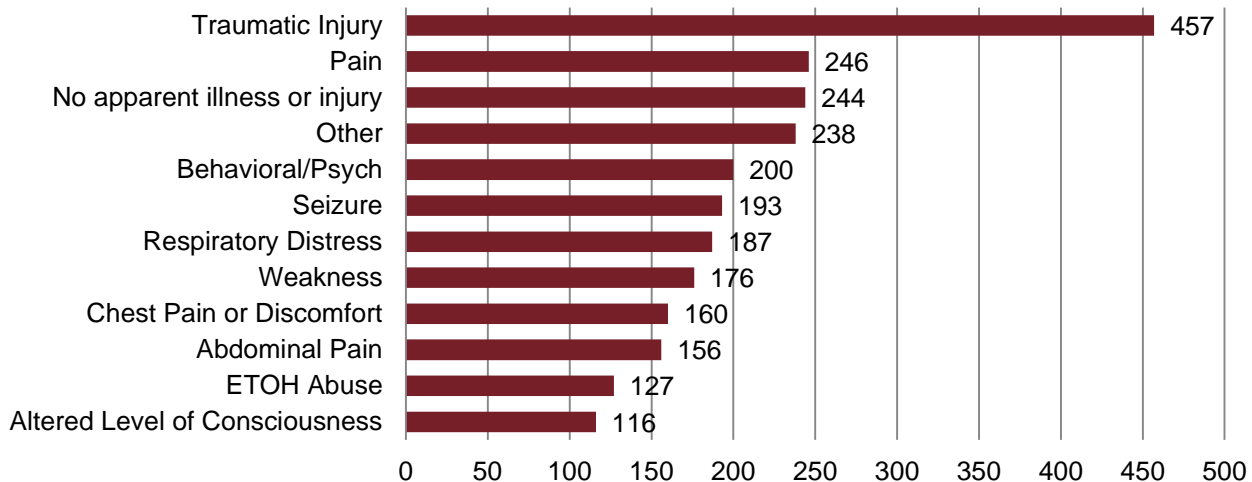
In 2015, the fire department responded to over 4000 requests for medical service. A breakdown of those requests by year over the past five years can be seen in the graph below. Of those responses, approximately 83% of those patients got transported to either a local facility, or to a facility outside of the city in order to get a higher level of care. Many of those people get care on scene and avoid a trip to the hospital by ambulance.

Dr. Steven Zils continues to fulfill the responsibilities of Service Medical Director. As a result, the department has been able to continue serving at a high level and also move forward with new medical protocols, more consistent training, and a move

toward better quality assurance measures.

The number of EMS responses by the fire department compared to other types of requests is very consistent with departments across the country according to the National Fire Protection Association statistics for fire responses. This holds true even for departments who do not provide ALS transport services. This is due largely to the fact that those departments provide for first response and other supportive duties to those incidents as well.

## 2015 Top 12 EMS Call Types (By Provider Impression)



## Fire Prevention and Public Education

In an effort to reduce the loss of life, injury, and property loss in the City of Sheboygan, the Sheboygan Fire Department is dedicated to providing education to the public as part of its mission.



As the hazards presented to the public change, so will the program offerings to the public. It is the department's intent to keep the education of our firefighters current to better offer training to the public about the hazards faced by members of the public and how to better avoid them.

While it is a core mission of the Sheboygan Fire Department to respond to and mitigate incidents in the City of Sheboygan, it is also the department's mission to reduce the number and severity of those incidents by proper code development and enforcement, effective and efficient response, and ongoing public education. It is through this continuous and comprehensive program of education

that the department maintains a culture of safety in the community.

This general program area of public education is vital to the success of the fire department mission. The funding for the materials used for the school programs is largely generated through a program developed and operated by the National Fire Safety Council (NFSC). Each year, local businesses are solicited for donations toward the program by NFSC on the department's behalf and those funds are used by the department to purchase all of the fire prevention materials used in the public education programs delivered in the schools.



## Fire Investigation

### Significant Fires Investigated in 2015

According to State statute it is the responsibility of the Fire Chief to investigate all fires for origin and cause. 143 fires were investigated and documented accordingly by the Incident Commander in charge of those fires. At times, additional assistance and expertise is utilized to investigate fires. In those cases, outside investigators or members of the Sheboygan County Fire Investigation Unit are requested.

The following addresses had fires that required a formal investigation:

- 952 Weeden Creek
- 3309 Hickory Circle
- 2201 Erie Avenue
- 1704 North 12 Street
- 1823 North 10 Street
- 2735 Henry Street
- 1402 North 17 Street
- 1521 Blocki Court
- 1214 North 17 Street
- 2329 South 16 Street
- 620 Broughton Drive
- 434 Huron Avenue
- 1107 South 15 Street
- 931 North 8 Street
- 1614 Indiana Avenue

## Training and Resource Development



The nature of the responsibilities of a fire department requires continuous training of its personnel to assure the best possible chance of a positive outcome when critical incidents occur. This is especially important when those events do not happen very often and you get one chance to get it right. Training and preparation is tailored to create effectiveness, efficiency, and safety when the fire department responds to incidents. The Sheboygan Fire Department provides for training of its employees through many different programs using a variety of methodologies that are designed to best meet the

needs of the department both fiscally and operationally.

Because of the inherent dangers present in the job, many of the training areas are statutorily mandated for the protection of both the employee and the citizens they serve.

The elimination of staff positions within the department has made it necessary to alter how the department plans, prepares, and delivers training. The duties have been redistributed to numerous personnel in an effort to maintain adequate training and monitored compliance with mandatory training requirements. Training for the department is coordinated through Battalion Chief Keith Risse. One of the ways the Sheboygan Fire Department works to maintain cost effective training is through the development and utilization of in-house instructors. These instructors are from both the line and staff of the fire department. Thirteen of



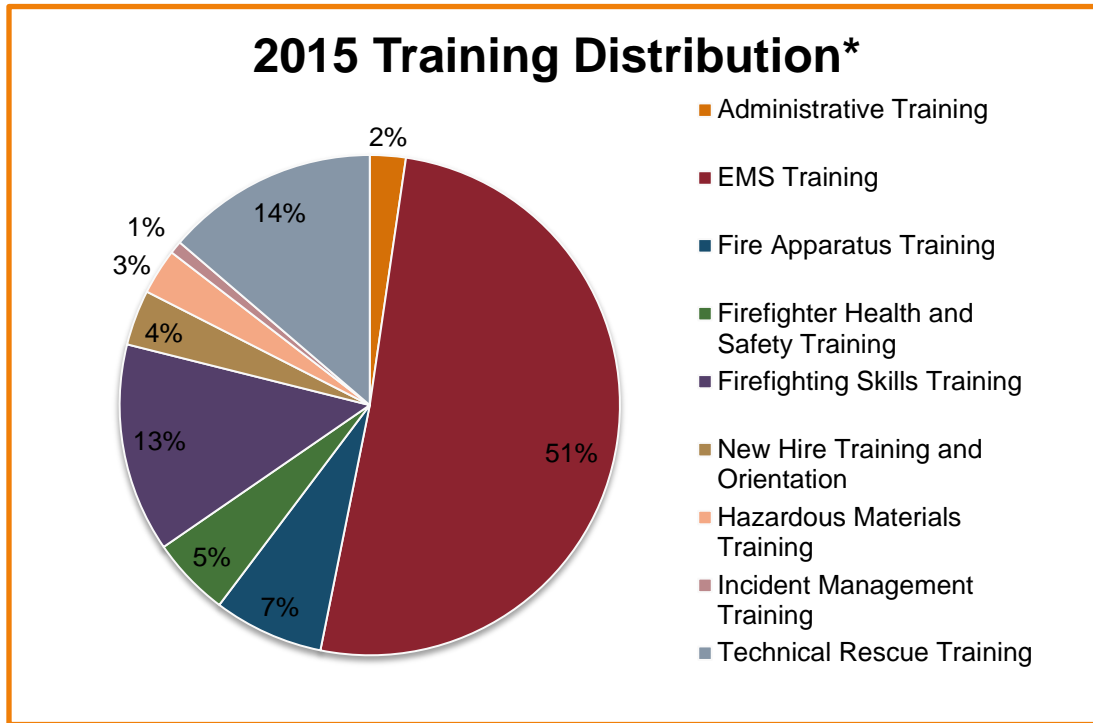
the department's instructors are certified through the Wisconsin State Technical College System in various areas including Emergency Medical Services, Technical Rescue, Firefighting, and Incident Management. Where no qualified instructor is available from within the department, the department will occasionally send an individual to train-the-trainer education for that topic, or an outside instructor is brought to the department.

**The following is a partial list of the major training topics delivered in 2015:**

- Narrative/Report Writing
- Bloodborne Pathogens Training
- Rope Rescue Training
- Rapid Intervention Team Training with Haven Fire Department
- Confined Space Rescue Training
- Natural Gas Emergencies Training with WPS
- Electrical Emergencies with Alliant Energy
- Vehicle Extrication
- Fire Prevention Code Review
- New Apparatus Orientation with Pierce Manufacturing
- Radio Communication Training with Combined Dispatch Center
- EMT and Paramedic Refresher Training
- CCR Recertification







CATEGORY	TOTAL HOURS
Administrative Training	192
EMS Training	4211
Fire Apparatus Training	589
Firefighter Health and Safety Training	425
Firefighting Skills Training	1118
New Hire Training and Orientation	297
Hazardous Materials Training	245
Incident Management Training	68
Technical Rescue Training	1137
<b>TOTAL TRAINING HOURS</b>	<b>8282</b>

\*Training numbers are from Emergency Reporting Training 3.0 Module for 2015

## Retirements in 2015\*



FEO WALLACE ENDSLEY



FEO ANDREW HEYN



FF STEVE KLOKOW



CPT TERRY SOERENS



FEO TERRY RISSE



FEO BRIAN SCHNELLE

\*Firefighter/Paramedic left the Sheboygan Fire Department to pursue other employment opportunities in 2015.

## Promotions in 2015



CAPTAIN  
TIMOTHY KOHLBECK



LIEUTENANT  
CHASE LONGMILLER



LIEUTENANT  
JAMON INGELSE

## New Employees



**FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC**  
**ADAM GRANDLIC**

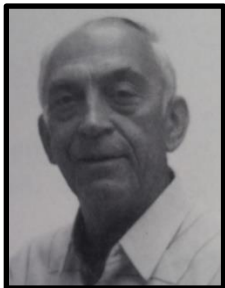


**FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC**  
**ALEXANDER EBERT**



**FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC**  
**RYAN SHAW**

## In Memoriam



**Robert Chuvan**

**Born: 1925**  
**Appointed: 1948**  
**Retired: 1985**  
**Retired a Lieutenant**  
**Returned to Quarters: 2015**



**Richard Ronk**

**Born: 1929**  
**Appointed: 1958**  
**Retired: 1984**  
**Retired a Captain**  
**Returned to Quarters: 2015**

Thank you to Asher Heimermann of Incident Response for his photographs that appear in this annual report.